

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Flavonoids, especially luteolin, are shown to be effective against insulin dependent (Type I) and insulin independent (Type II) diabetes mellitus. It is demonstrated that luteolin works in mammals by binding and blocking the K<sub>v</sub>1.3 potassium channel of T-cell and Beta cells. Antidiabetic and anti-autoimmune compounds can be selected by  
5 measuring their ability to bind to and block the K<sub>v</sub>1.3 channel.

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